

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Ex. 20:1-17 & Numbers 35

SINGING: 15:1-3 – 143:1 – 115:1-4 - 80:1-4, 10 – 83:1-3

CITY OF REFUGE

- I. The Need for the city II. The Provision of the city
III. The Use of it of the city

I. THE NEED FOR A CITY OF REFUGE

A. We aren't only *un-intentional* sinners but all are also *intentional* sinners

1. Daily we stumble due to our fallen nature, but none are excused!

2. Daily we also make deliberate choices that violate God's moral code!

B. The reality is that God is our Judge and the Avenger of every wrong!

1. Who can blame God for pursuing justice?

2. Who can meet this Judge of every heart and life?

II. THE PROVISION OF THE CITY OF REFUGE

A. Upon God's command, Moses set aside 6 cities for refuge

B. The provision of city of refuge is God's 'self-revelation'

1. The OT revelation provided a refuge place for *un-intentional sinners!*

2. The NT revelation deepens it to a refuge place for *intentional sinners!*

C. God doesn't cancel His demand of justice but provides way of settlement

1. In the cross of Jesus the Judge can embrace the sinner (Ps. 85:1)

2. In the Gospel the Judge invites us 'come and eat' (Luke 14:16-17)

a. the foundation of God's Gospel is His sovereign grace

b. the door of God's Gospel is His free grace

III. THE USE OF THE CITY OF REFUGE

A. What good are all the cities if the guilty wouldn't flee to it?

B. Observe how David makes use of the 'city of refuge' in Ps. 31:1

1. Definition of 'trust' is *to seek or take refuge*

2. His plea not 'to be put to shame'
 - a. each applicant for 'refuge-status faced a trial (Nu. 35:24)

 - b. depending on facts, you either were given or denied protection

3. His ground to be admitted shelter even though he was an intentional sinner was *not his own righteousness*

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

A. The promise of the Gospel is 'full coverage' in Jesus' righteousness

1. How necessary to part with your own 'coverage'

2. Be assured that God is reconcilable (Heb. 6:18)

QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY DISCUSSION ...

1. Using a map, locate the six cities of refuge.
2. How do these cities picture God's justice and God's mercy?
3. What was the only cause a person could again leave the city of refuge?
4. Find the verses in Rom. 10 that are connected to the city of refuge!